

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-03

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AF-EWMULCAHY

S/S-O:P. JOHNSON

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R 151619Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 035706

LONDON FOR HAVERKAMP

REF: MONROVIA 7127

FOL MONROVIA 853 SENT ACTION SECSTATE PRETORIA CAPETOWN

DIA FEB 12; REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 0853

CAPETWON ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, SF, LI

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN VISIT TO LIBERIA

1. APPARENT HIGH LEVEL SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION ARRIVED
LIBERIA COMPLETELY UNANNOUNCED BY AIR FEBURARY 11 AND PERSONNEL
DEPARTING FEBRUARY 12.

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2. ROBERTS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (RIA) MONROVIA CLOSED

FOR QTE SECURITY REASONS UNQTE BY FONMIN DENNIS (IN PERSON)
ABOUT 12:30 ON FEBRUARY 11 AND ANNOUNCEMENT MADE THAT IT WILL RE-
MAIN CLOSED UNTIL 18:00 FEBRUARY 12. AFTER CLOSING, ONE UN-
SCHEDULED FLIGHT PERMITTED LAND TO PICK UP PAN AM RELIEF CREW
AND TAKE THEM DAKAR. RIA EMPLOYEES THEN ORDERED OFF FIELD AT 16:00
EXCEPT FOR FEW PERSONS. FULLY ARMED SOLDIERS THEN DEPLOYED 3.7
MILE PERIMETER OF FIELD. AT APPROX 18:15 BOEING 707 AIRCRAFT
IDENTIFIED BY USG AND OTHER OBSERVERS AS SOUTH AFRICAN AIRLINES
LANDED AND STOPPED ON RUNWAY. AIRCRAFT SURROUNDED BY SOLDIERS,
AND PASSENGERS TAKEN BY OFFICIAL MOTORCADE THROUGH FIRESTONE
PLANTATION APPARENTLY EN ROUTE PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S HOME IN
BENTOL SECURITY GUARD
REMAINS DEPLOYED AROUND AIRCRAFT WHICH STILL ON RUNWAY, AND IT
BELIEVED THAT PART OF AIRCREW OR OTHER PERSONNEL REMAIN ON BOARD.

3. VIEW SECRECY AND DEGREE OF SECURITY SURROUNDING VISIT,
EMBASSY ASSUMES HIGH LEVEL SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION
(PERHAPS VORSTER HIMSELF) INVOLVED. EFFORTS TO OBTAIN
INFORMATION RE CLOSING OF RIA WERE MADE WITH HIGH LEVEL GOL
OFFICIALS AT ARMED FORCES DAY BALL EVENING FEBRUARY 11 TO NO AVAIL.
ALL HIGH LEVEL MILITARY OFFICERS PRESENT AT BALL. PENBERTHY
UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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